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GOOD WORK, SUPERBOY! NOW JUST MAKE SURE THE WIRING IS ALL INTACT-- AND ORBITER I SHOULD BE BACK IN SERVICE!

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HOW GREEN IS MY HOME TOWN?

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Joe Orlando, Managing Editor
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Jack Adler, Vice-Pres.-Production
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Advertising Representative,
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JUST ONE LOOSE END, SIR--
--BUT NOTHING A LITTLE HEAT VISION WELDING CAN'T FIX!
ZZZT
GOOD JOB, SUPERBOY-- WE'RE PICKING UP IMPULSES FROM ORBITER I ALREADY!
SWOOSH!!!
ROGER, PROFESSOR-- I'M HEADING BACK!
AND SHORTLY, AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE S.R.A.*--
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE, SUPERBOY --YOU'VE PERFORMED A SERVICE WHICH WILL BE INVALUABLE TO MANKIND!
ALL IN AN AFTERNOON'S WORK, DR. CRAIG! GLAD TO BE OF ASSISTANCE!
*SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, FORERUNNER OF TODAY'S S.T.A.R. LABORATORIES! --PAUL
AND NOW I MUST BE GOING BACK TO SMALLVILLE...
...WHERE I PROMISED TO MEET PETE ROSS AND LANA LANG AT PA'S STORE!
HMMM.. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ALREADY ON THE SCENE--
2

SO, WITH A QUICK CHANGE ON THE WAY...
HERE'S CLARK NOW!
THE DELIVERIES ARE ALL MADE, PA! HI, LANA... PETE!
RIGHT ON TIME, CLARK!
ALL SET TO DO OUR PART IN SMALLVILLE BEAUTIFICATION WEEK, PAL?
YOU BET! MA AND PA DONATED ALL THESE SEEDS FOR US TO PLANT IN THE PARK--
SEEDS
--AND I'VE GOT A GREEN THUMB!
THAT'S NOT ALL YOU'VE GOT, CLARK--
!GASP!
EEEK!
JEHOSEPHAT! WE'VE ALL CHANGED COLOR!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
FEELING WOOZY...
YOUR FACE AND HANDS ARE GREEN, TOO!
WHAT?!
3

LAND SAKES, JONATHAN-- I JUST SAW MRS. PARKER AND SHE MUST BE TERRIBLY ILL!
SHE WAS JUST AS GREEN AS... AS... OH, DEAR LORD!
WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?
WE DON'T KNOW, MARTHA--BUT THERE MUST BE SOME EXPLANATION!
OOOOHH...
CRASH
LOOK-- CLARK'S COLLAPSED--!
HELP ME GET HIM INTO THE TRUCK, PETE--
--I'VE GOT TO GET THE BOY HOME TO BED!
EVERYBODY IN SMALLVILLE HAS TURNED GREEN-- AND JUDGING FROM THE WAY IT AFFECTED CLARK-- IT'S GOT TO BE SOME KIND OF KRYPTONITE POISONING!
BEST THING I CAN DO IS LEAVE HIM ALONE OUT HERE--WHERE THERE'S NOBODY AROUND!
GOOD, IT'S WORKING ALREADY!
...UUUNNNHHH...
4

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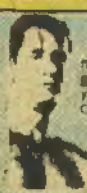

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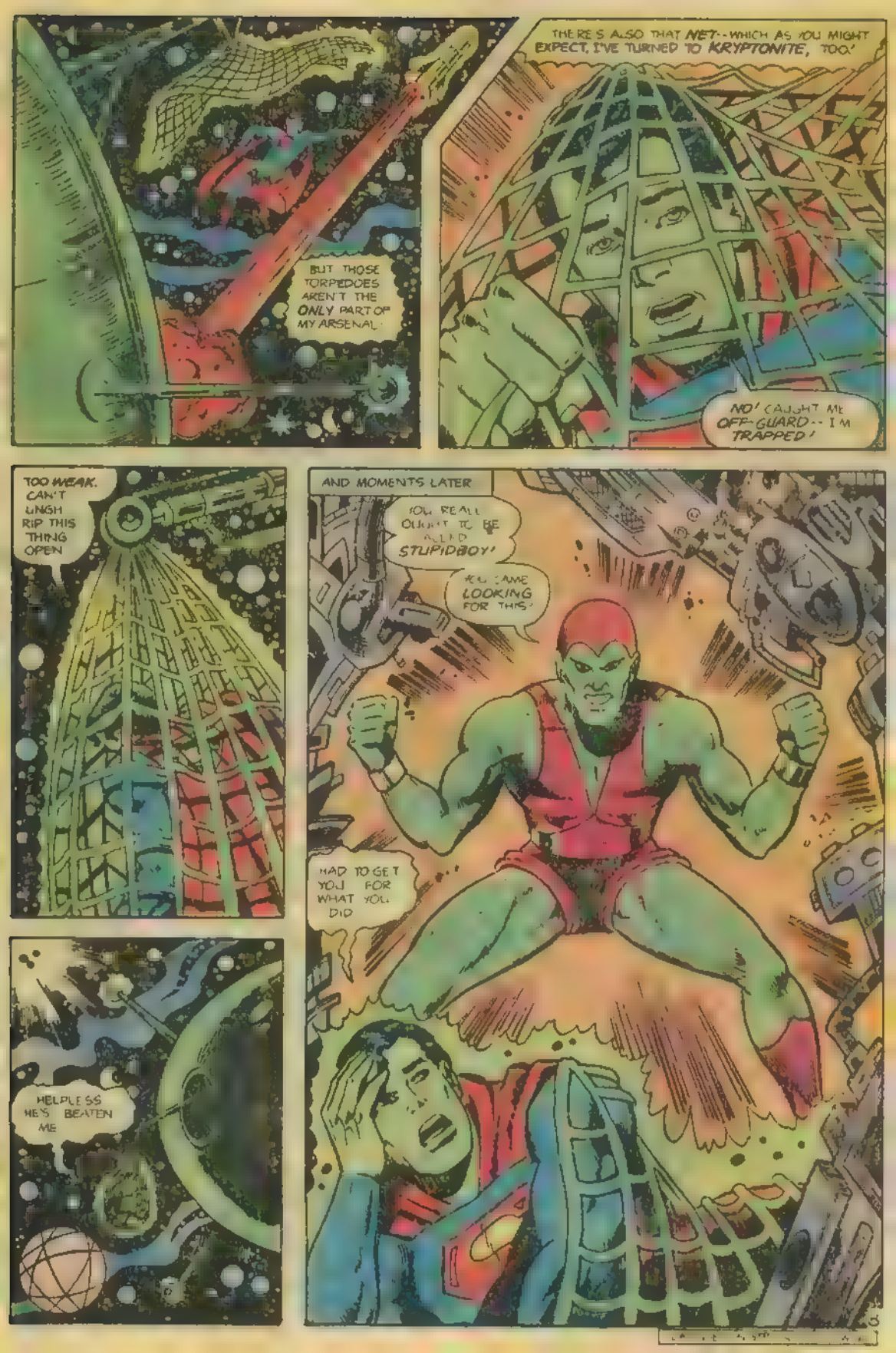
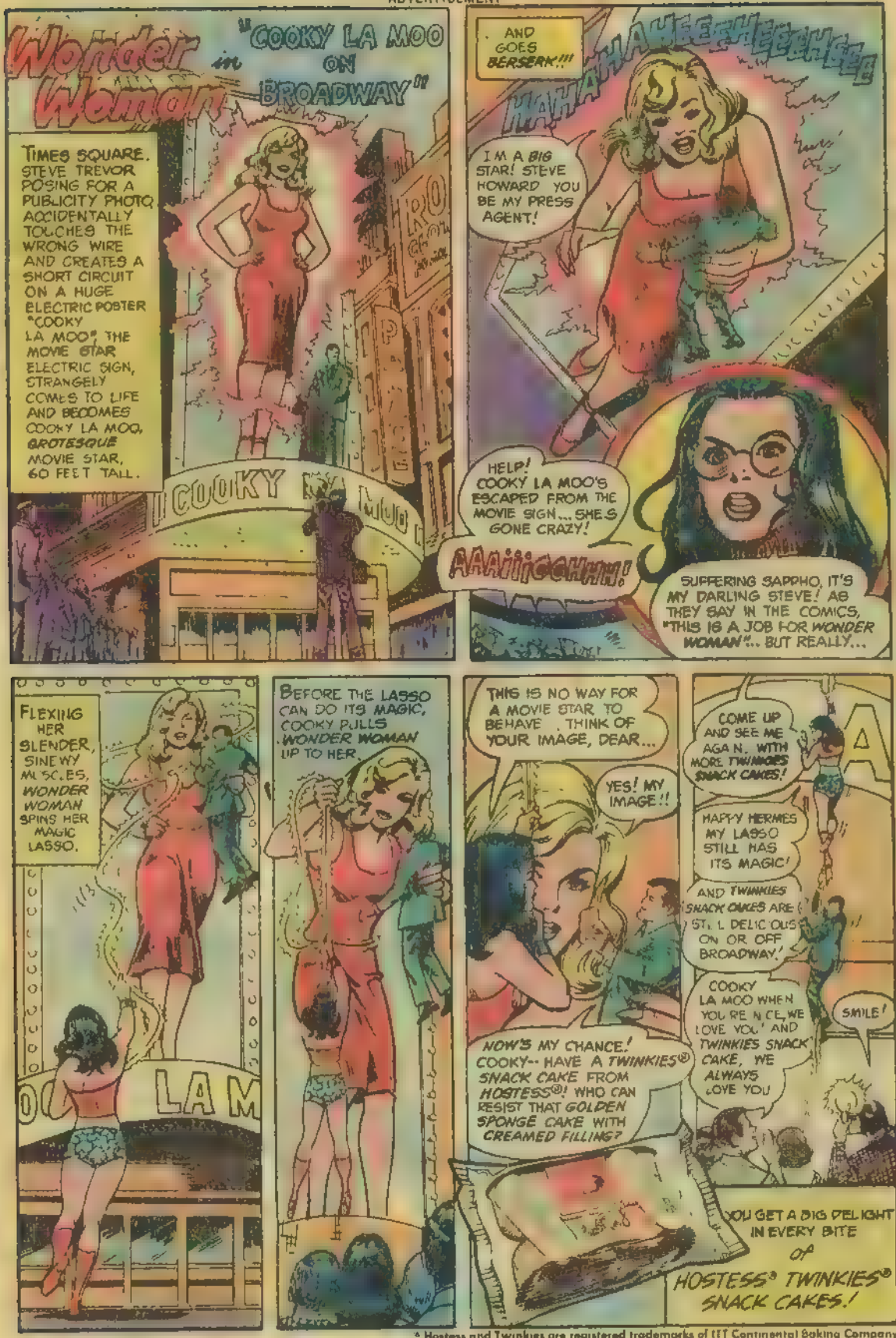
AND...
THANKS, PA, GETTING ME AWAY FROM EVERYBODY DID THE TRICK--
--BUT I'LL HAVE TO USE SUPER-VENTRILOQUISM TILL I FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!
SURE LOOKS LIKE KRYPTONITE TO ME, SON!
IT'S GOT TO BE--
AND THE ONLY PERSON I KNOW WHO COULD CONTAMINATE THE ENTIRE TOWN LIKE THIS IS...
INSTANTLY, PATHER AND SON REMEMBER THE DEADLIEST OF SUPERBOY'S FOES-- WHO WAS ONCE A PRISONER ON THE PLANET BLOR...
A PARDON WILL BE GRANTED TO THE MAN WHO VOLUNTEER'S TO BE THE PASSENGER IN A NEW TEST SATELLITE! I MUST ADD THAT THE CHANCES OF SURVIVAL ARE 10,000 TO ONE!
I'LL VOLUNTEER!
BETTER TO DIE IN SPACE THAN ROT HERE IN PRISON!
...THE KRYPTONITE KID!
BUT THE KID DIDN'T DIE-- INSTEAD, HIS SATELLITE PASSED THROUGH A STRANGE SPACE CLOUD...
...AND AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION TOOK PLACE--
WE'VE TURNED GREEN-- AND BY CONCENTRATING I CAN TURN THIS CUP TO KRYPTONITE WHEN I TOUCH IT!
WE'VE GOT A KRYPTONITE TOUCH, AND WITH IT, WE CAN DESTROY SUPERBOY!
I'VE DEFEATED THE KID EACH TIME*-- BUT THIS TIME HE MUST HAVE BEEN SURE HE'D BEATEN ME!
THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM ANYWHERE ON EARTH!
*KK REAPPEARED IN SUPERBOY #'S 99 AND 128! --LIBRARIAN LEVITZ.
5

I'VE GOT TO TRACK HIM THROUGH SPACE, PA! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE...
SEE YOU SOON--
--I HOPE!
...BUT I KNEW THAT THE EFFECT WOULD WEAR OFF--A FACT THIS NEW ATTACK VERIFIES!
AND WHAT AN ATTACK IT IS--
THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM, HE HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO THE RED KRYPTONITE KID--WHICH TURNED HIM GOOD--
UNLESS THE PROCESS IS REVERSED, I CAN NEVER GO HOME AGAIN!
JUST COMING CLOSE TO MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS COULD KILL ME!
A IN SUPERBOY #99!--PAUL
SMAASH
THE THOUGHT OF IT MAKES ME SO MAD I COULD--
MOMENTARILY PAUSING TO RENEW HIS POWERS WITH THE RAYS OF A YELLOW SUN, THE BOY OF STEEL SUDDENLY SEES...

THE KID'S SATELLITE - BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL GREEN HUE--
AH, SUPERBOY!
--WHICH MEANS THE KRYPTONITE RADIATION IT GIVES OFF CAN DRAIN MY POWERS IN A MATTER OF MINUTES
SO NICE OF YOU TO VISIT ME! WHAT? LEAVING SO SOON?
I MUST INSIST THAT YOU STAY AWHILE-
- SO, I'LL HAVE TIME TO DESTROY YOU!
THAT GRINNING GREEN FACE HAS SOUPED UP HIS SATELLITE--
FIRING A KRYPTONITE TORPEDO!
I'M IN TROUBLE... HE'S MARKED ME AS THE BULL'S-EYE IN HIS TARGET PRACTICE
IMPRESSIVE SHOWING, SUPERBOY-
AND THE RAYS FROM THE KRYPTONITE ARE SLOWING MY REACTIONS!
HIS KRYPTONITE CONTAMINATION ON EARTH MADE ME SO ANGRY, I DIDN'T EVEN THINK TO BRING ALONG A LEAD-LINED SPACE SUIT!


BUT THOSE TORPEDOES AREN'T THE ONLY PART OF MY ARSENAL
THERE'S ALSO THAT NET--WHICH AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, I'VE TURNED TO KRYPTONITE, TOO!
NO! CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD--I'M TRAPPED!
TOO WEAK. CAN'T UNSH RIP THIS THING OPEN
AND MOMENTS LATER
YOU REALLY OUGHT TO BE CALLED STUPIDBOY!
YOU CAME LOOKING FOR THIS!
HAD TO GET YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID
HELPLESS HE'S BEATEN ME


Wonder Woman
"COOKY LA MOO in BROADWAY"
TIMES SQUARE. STEVE TREVOR POSING FOR A PUBLICITY PHOTO, ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHES THE WRONG WIRE AND CREATES A SHORT CIRCUIT ON A HUGE ELECTRIC POSTER "COOKY LA MOO", THE MOVIE STAR ELECTRIC SIGN, STRANGELY COMES TO LIFE AND BECOMES COOKY LA MOO, GROTESQUE MOVIE STAR, 60 FEET TALL.
COOKY LA MOO
. AND GOES BERSERK!!!
HAHAHAHEEHEEHEE
I'M A BIG STAR! STEVE HOWARD YOU BE MY PRESS AGENT!
HELP! COOKY LA MOO'S ESCAPED FROM THE MOVIE SIGN... SHE'S GONE CRAZY!
AAAiiiCHHH!
SUFFERING SAPPHO, IT'S MY DARLING STEVE! AS THEY SAY IN THE COMICS, "THIS IS A JOB FOR WONDER WOMAN"... BUT REALLY...
FLEXING HER SLENDER, SINEWY MUSCLES, WONDER WOMAN SPINS HER MAGIC LASSO.
BEFORE THE LASSO CAN DO ITS MAGIC, COOKY PULLS WONDER WOMAN UP TO HER.
THIS IS NO WAY FOR A MOVIE STAR TO BEHAVE . THINK OF YOUR IMAGE, DEAR...
YES! MY IMAGE!!
NOW'S MY CHANCE! COOKY-- HAVE A TWINKIES® SNACK CAKE FROM HOSTESS®! WHO CAN RESIST THAT GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE WITH CREAMED FILLING?
COME UP AND SEE ME AGA N. WITH MORE TWINKIES SNACK CAKES!
HAPPY HERMES MY LASSO STILL HAS ITS MAGIC!
AND TWINKIES SNACK CAKES ARE STI L DELIC OUS ON OR OFF BROADWAY!
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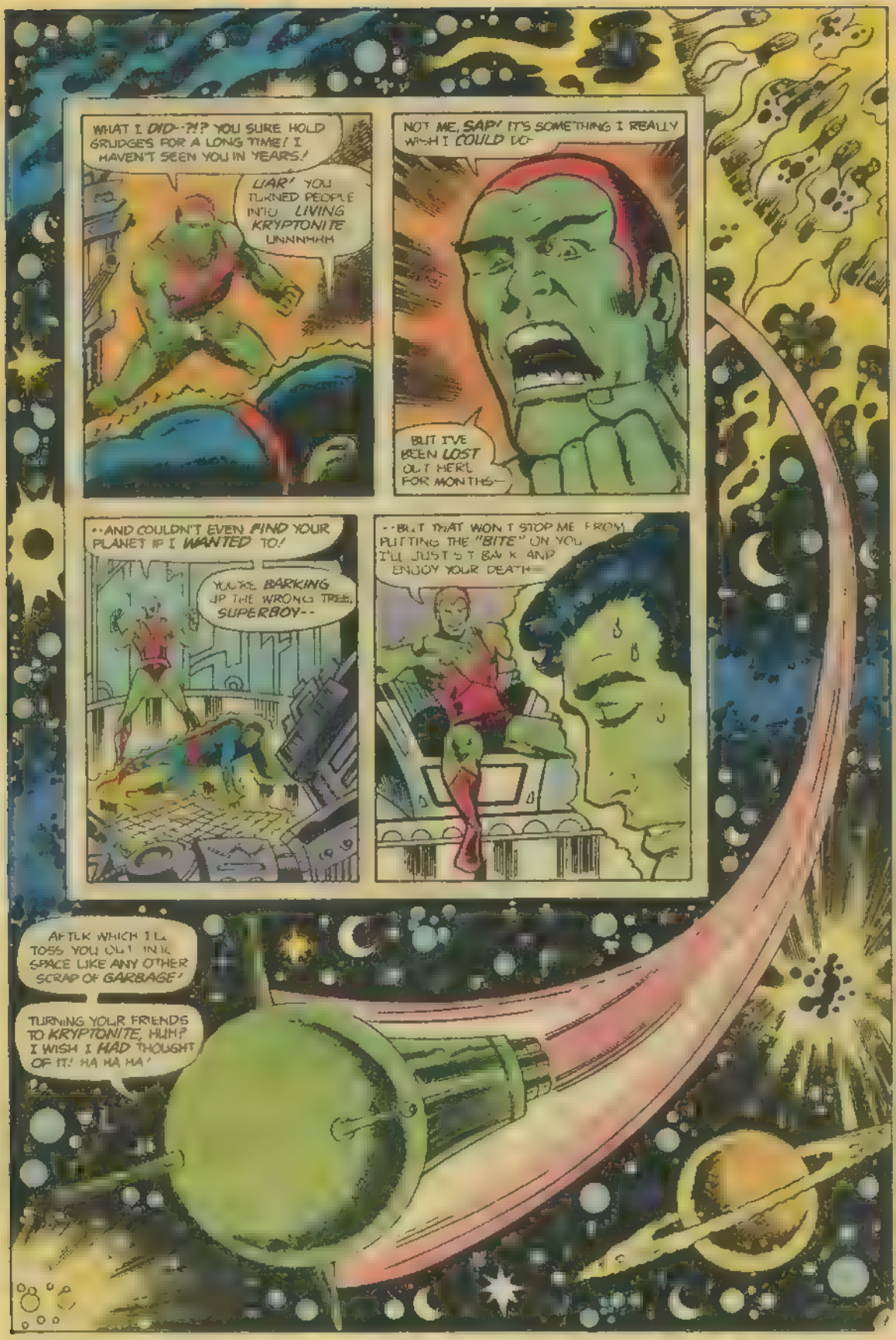
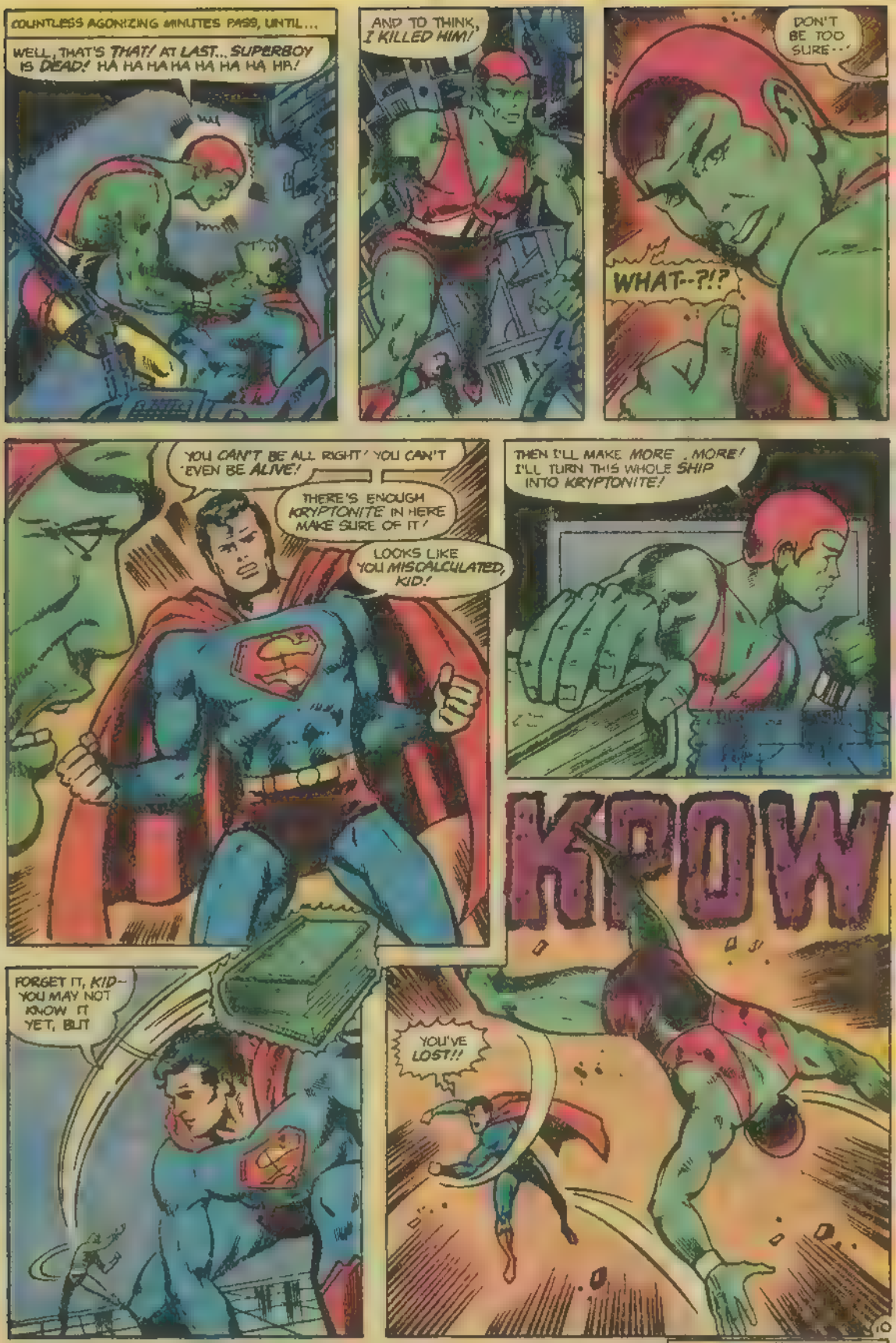

WHAT I DID--?!? YOU SURE HOLD GRUDGES FOR A LONG TIME! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN YEARS!
LIAR! YOU TURNED PEOPLE INTO LIVING KRYPTONITE UNNNHHH
NOT ME, SAP! IT'S SOMETHING I REALLY WISH I COULD DO
BUT I'VE BEEN LOST OUT HERE FOR MONTHS--
--AND COULDN'T EVEN FIND YOUR PLANET IF I WANTED TO!
YOU'RE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE, SUPERBOY--
--BUT THAT WON'T STOP ME FROM PUTTING THE "BITE" ON YOU. I'LL JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY YOUR DEATH--
AFTER WHICH I'LL TOSS YOU OUT IN SPACE LIKE ANY OTHER SCRAP OF GARBAGE!
TURNING YOUR FRIENDS TO KRYPTONITE, HUH? I WISH I HAD THOUGHT OF IT! HA HA HA!


COUNTLESS AGONIZING MINUTES PASS, UNTIL...
WELL, THAT'S THAT! AT LAST... SUPERBOY IS DEAD! HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
AND TO THINK, I KILLED HIM!
DON'T BE TOO SURE...
WHAT--?!?
YOU CAN'T BE ALL RIGHT! YOU CAN'T EVEN BE ALIVE!
THERE'S ENOUGH KRYPTONITE IN HERE MAKE SURE OF IT!
LOOKS LIKE YOU MISCALCULATED, KID!
THEN I'LL MAKE MORE . MORE! I'LL TURN THIS WHOLE SHIP INTO KRYPTONITE!
KPOW
FORGET IT, KID- YOU MAY NOT KNOW IT YET, BUT
YOU'VE LOST!!
10
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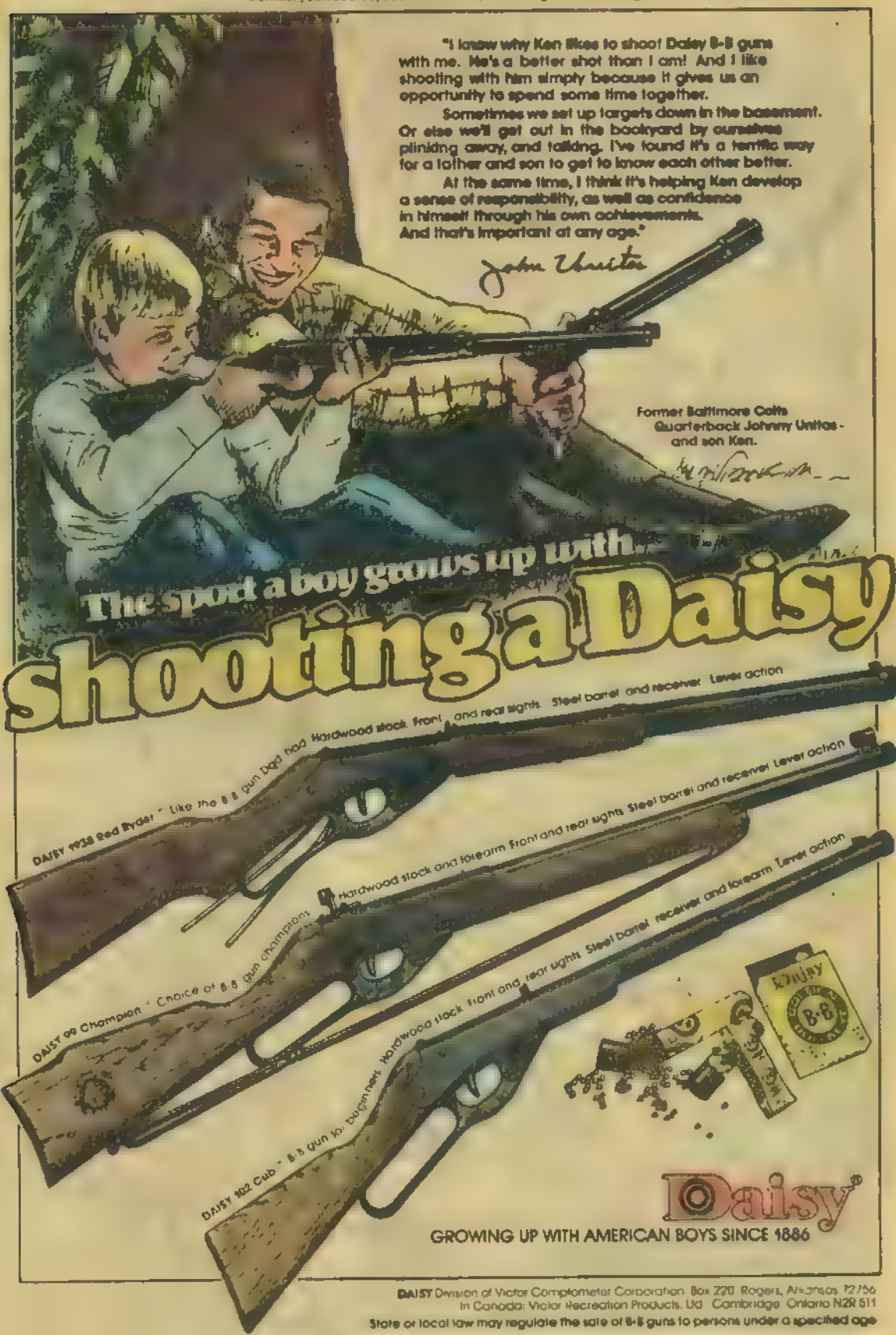
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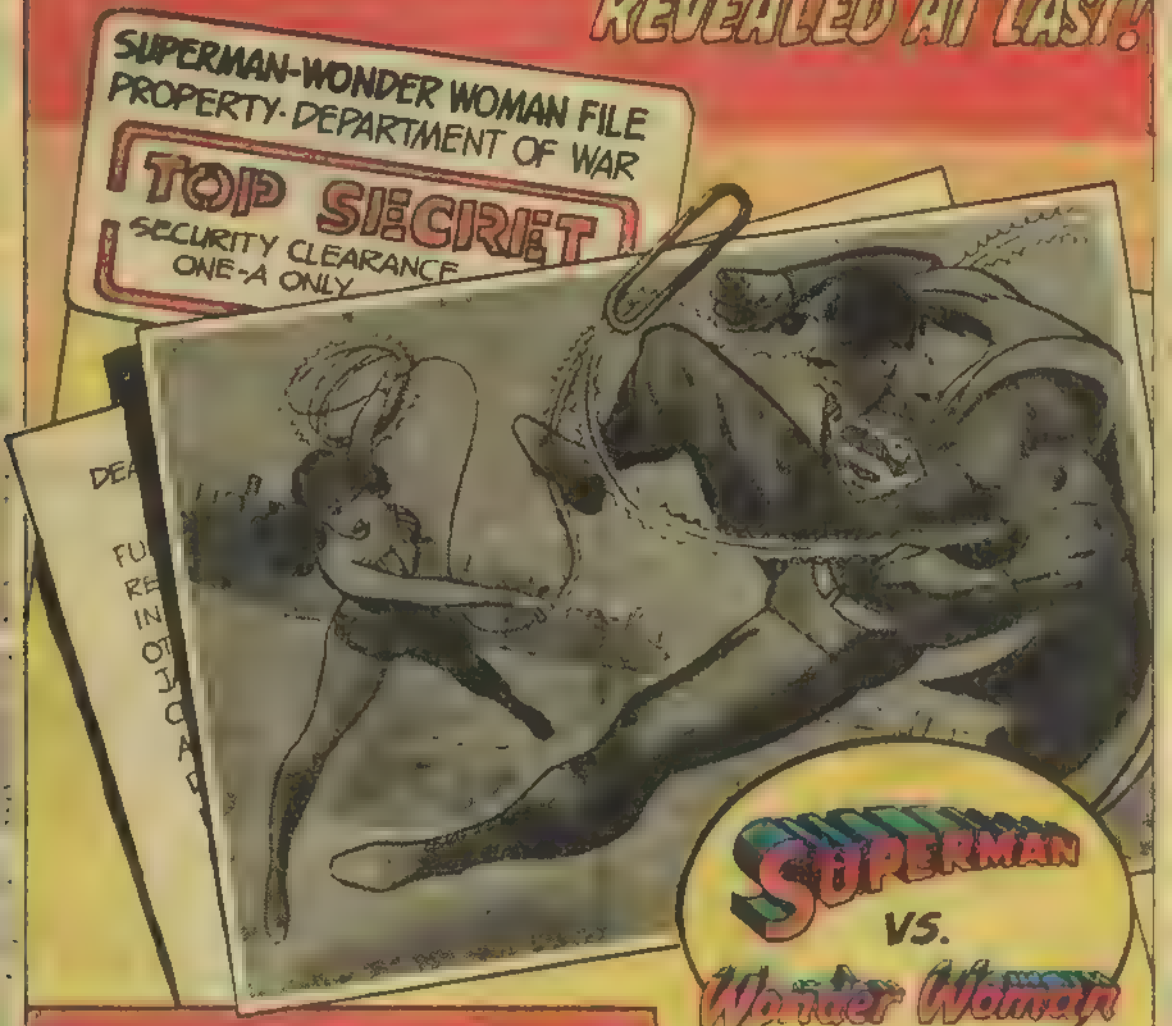

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SWOOSH
THE KID WILL NEVER FIGURE OUT HOW I DID IT..AND FURTHERMORE, HE'S STILL AS LOST AS BEFORE, SO I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM!
BUT WHAT I DO HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IS WHO TURNED EVERYBODY TO KRYPTONITE PEOPLE AND WHY!
WHO INDEED? THE STARTLING ANSWER AWAITS YOU NEXT ISSUE, ON SALE THE LAST WEEK IN OCTOBER.

DC Publishorial

THE GREATEST SUPERMAN STORY EVER TOLD

"It was one of those few Superman ideas that had never been done before," explained Cary Bates as he enthusiastically discussed the new, ground-breaking Superman Dollar Comic on sale this month. "It was even more exciting because I had a full 63 pages to develop it. There was room to create little climaxes within bigger ones, to throw in flash-backs and flash-forwards and an occasional surprise, to explore themes that in other stories I could only touch on. I constructed it just as I would a full-length movie script. In every way it was the most rewarding Superman comic I've ever done."

For the past ten years, Cary has been one of the Man of Steel's steadiest and most inventive biographers. But, as Cary mentions, the Superman Dollar Comic is a radical departure both in form and in content from anything he's done in the past. In fact, even within Cary's lifetime (28 years), there's been nothing like it—a novel-length saga featuring only one central character.

And the idea? Credit is given to a friend of writer Marty Pasko, John LaMartine.

Marty thought the idea was terrific and shared it with Cary because both authors had agreed to collaborate on the Superman Dollar Comic. They got the backing of Superman editor Julie Schwartz, brainstormed about the total concept, and divided up the chapters. Cary got I and II.

"I guess I'm very hard to collaborate with," says Cary in an effort to explain how he also ended up with chapters III and IV. "I don't like to know all the details in advance. I'd rather plant a lot of things along the way and see for myself how they turn out.

"When Marty read my chapters, they weren't quite what he'd envisioned. Then I gave him a list of all the things I'd stuck in the first half of the book that he'd have to resolve in the second. We spent the rest of the afternoon in Julie's office."

The outcome, of course, was that Cary would write the whole book.

"Actually," admits Cary, "I was kind of excited it turned out this way. Since I had a vision of how I thought the book should be, I was glad to be able to see it all the way through."

Understandable. The plot has all the elements that have made Cary's Superman tales so eminently readable for so many years. There's the critical counterpoint between the Man of Steel and Clark Kent, the humorous interplay of the Galaxy Communications staff, a raft of extraordinary super-feats, inspired cunning from both Luthor and Brainiac, and a bruising climactic battle ending in death.

But most of all, the comic really does revolve around one of the few Superman ideas that has never been done before. And even more than the twists and turns of plot, more than the dynamic clashes, and more than the exciting Curt Swan/Vince Colletta visuals that only a story of this length allows, shines the concept in all its originality.

Let us know how you liked the book.

With all the best—

Jenette

"Thanks for Calling..."

By this time, the DC Direct Currents Hotline is expected to have received nearly 750,000 calls. Recently, we've been receiving around 100,000 calls a month—nearly twice as many as we anticipated!

We're grateful for this fantastic response. We really are.

Unfortunately, the Direct Currents Hotline is no more.

Our reasons for this act are simple: the project has been too successful. We have been receiving more calls than our present number of lines could possibly handle. At times, the volume of busy signals has been so great the telephone company has asked us to consider dropping the service. During the two hours immediately following the end of the school day, for example, circuits have often been jammed all across the United States.

There is one last chance for the Hotline. Even as these words are being set in print, the producers of the upcoming Superman movie are considering picking up the service to keep you informed as to the film's progress. Watch this space next month (and keep your eye on the Daily Planet pages), if they decide to do so, you'll be the first to hear about it.

However, DC Comics isn't through with the **IDEA** behind the Hotline. Elsewhere, you can read about the DC Direct Currents Newsletter, a monthly bulletin bringing you the various movies and television series being produced . . . you get the idea. As much as we hate to see the Hotline go, we're truly excited about the Newsletter. We're sure you will be, too.

And to all you folks who wore down your fingertips dialing the Hotline—our deepest thanks and appreciation. It's great to know you're out there.

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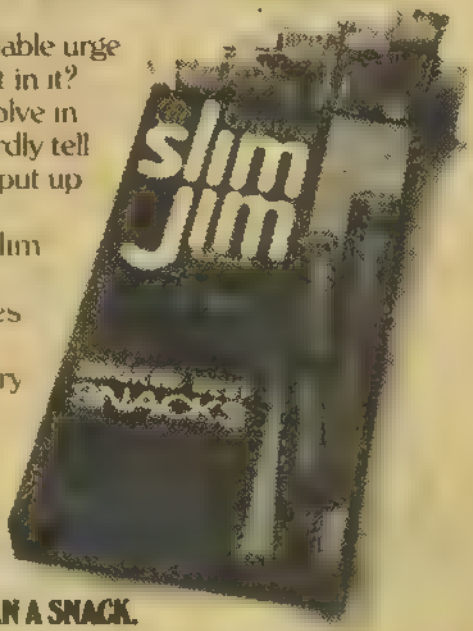

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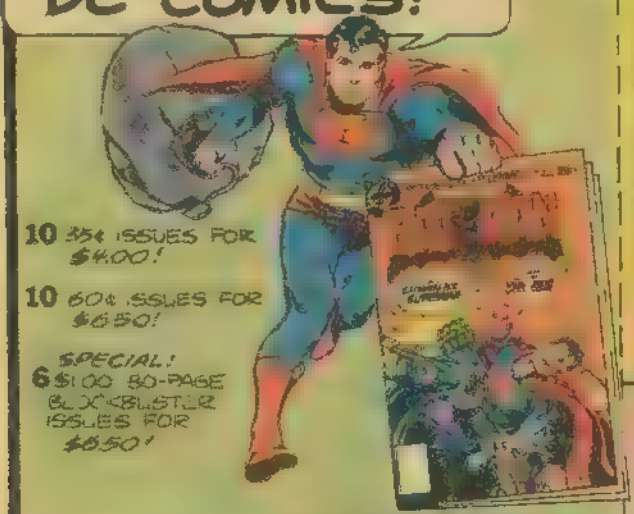

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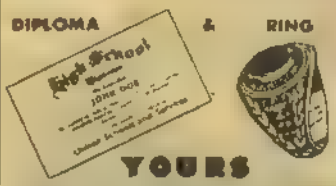

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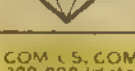

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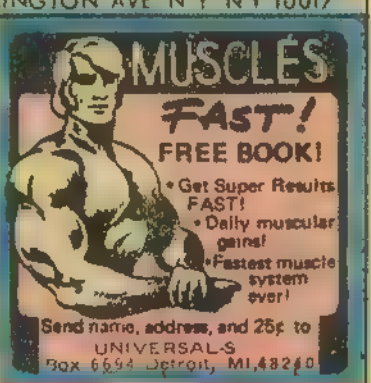

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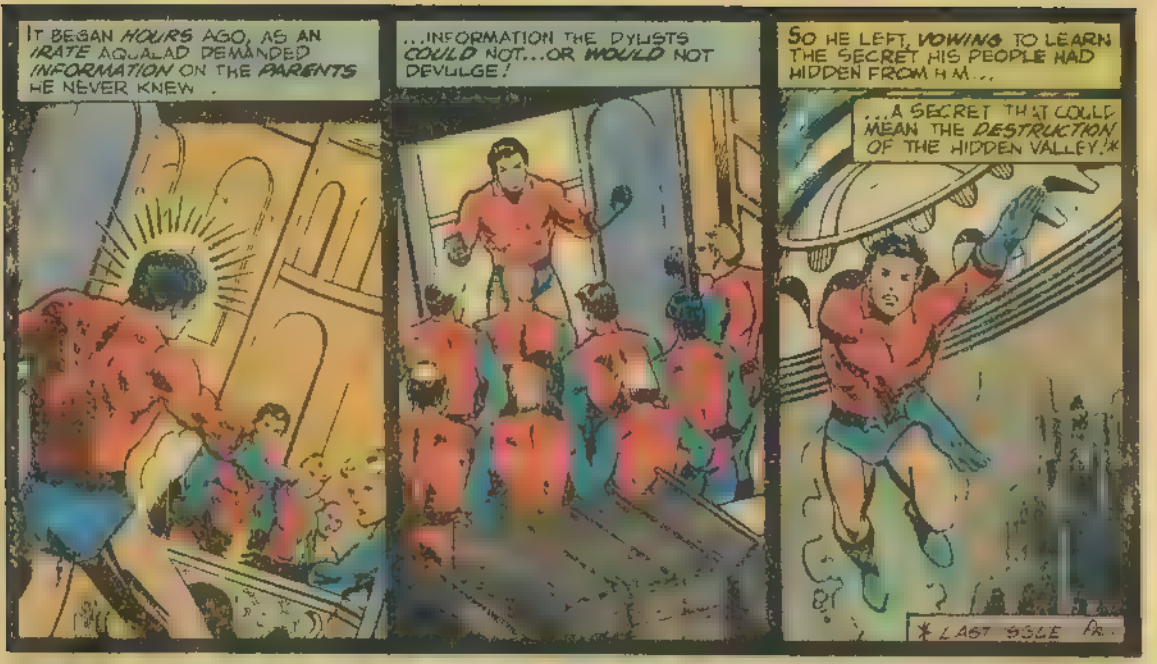
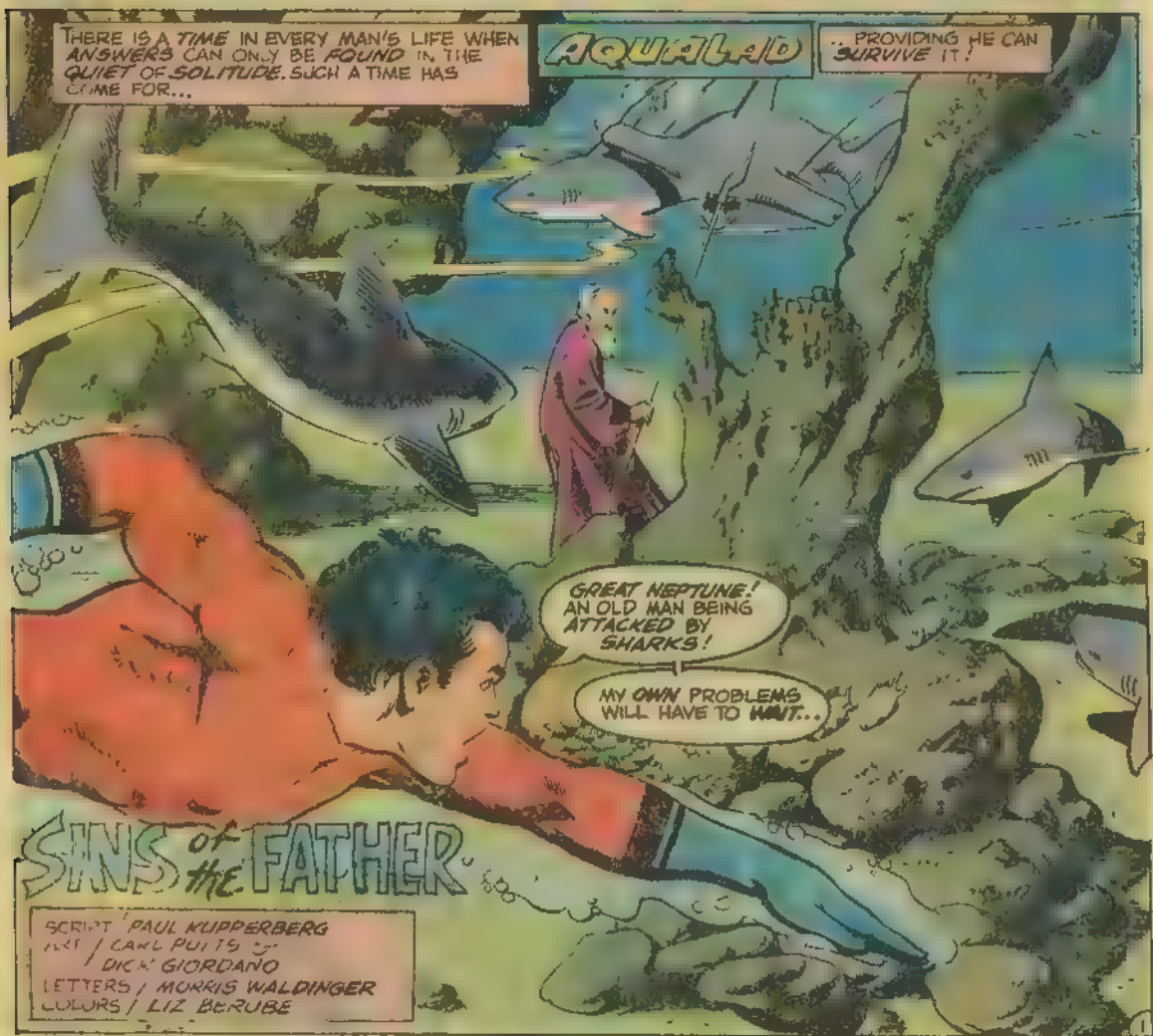

IT BEGAN HOURS AGO, AS AN IRATE AQUALAD DEMANDED INFORMATION ON THE PARENTS HE NEVER KNEW.
...INFORMATION THE DYLISTS COULD NOT...OR WOULD NOT DEVULGE!
SO HE LEFT, VOWING TO LEARN THE SECRET HIS PEOPLE HAD HIDDEN FROM HIM...
...A SECRET THAT COULD MEAN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE HIDDEN VALLEY!*
* LAST ISSUE


THERE IS A TIME IN EVERY MAN'S LIFE WHEN ANSWERS CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN THE QUIET OF SOLITUDE. SUCH A TIME HAS COME FOR...
AQUALAD
...PROVIDING HE CAN SURVIVE IT!
GREAT NEPTUNE! AN OLD MAN BEING ATTACKED BY SHARKS!
MY OWN PROBLEMS WILL HAVE TO WAIT...
SINS of the FATHER
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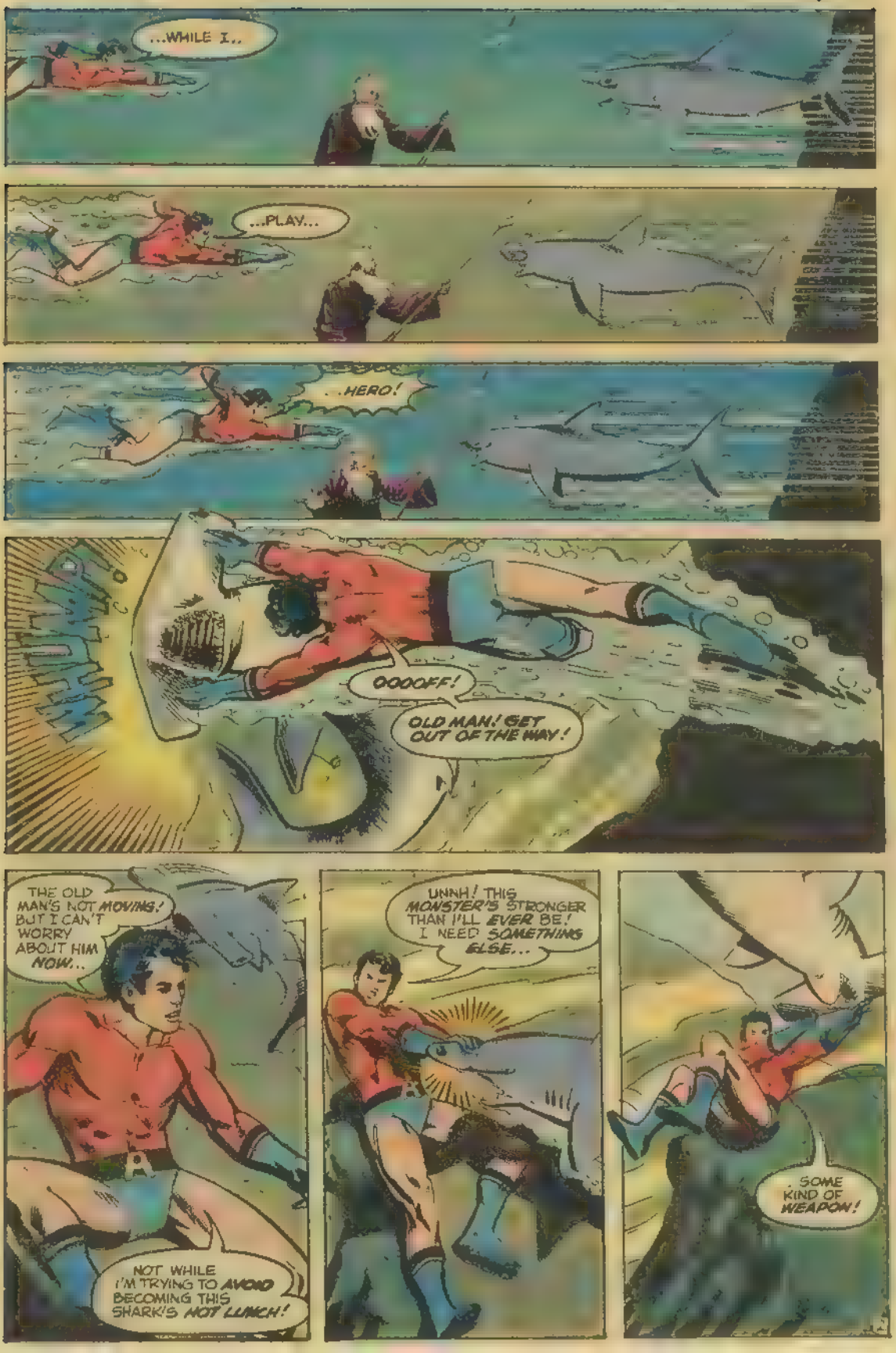
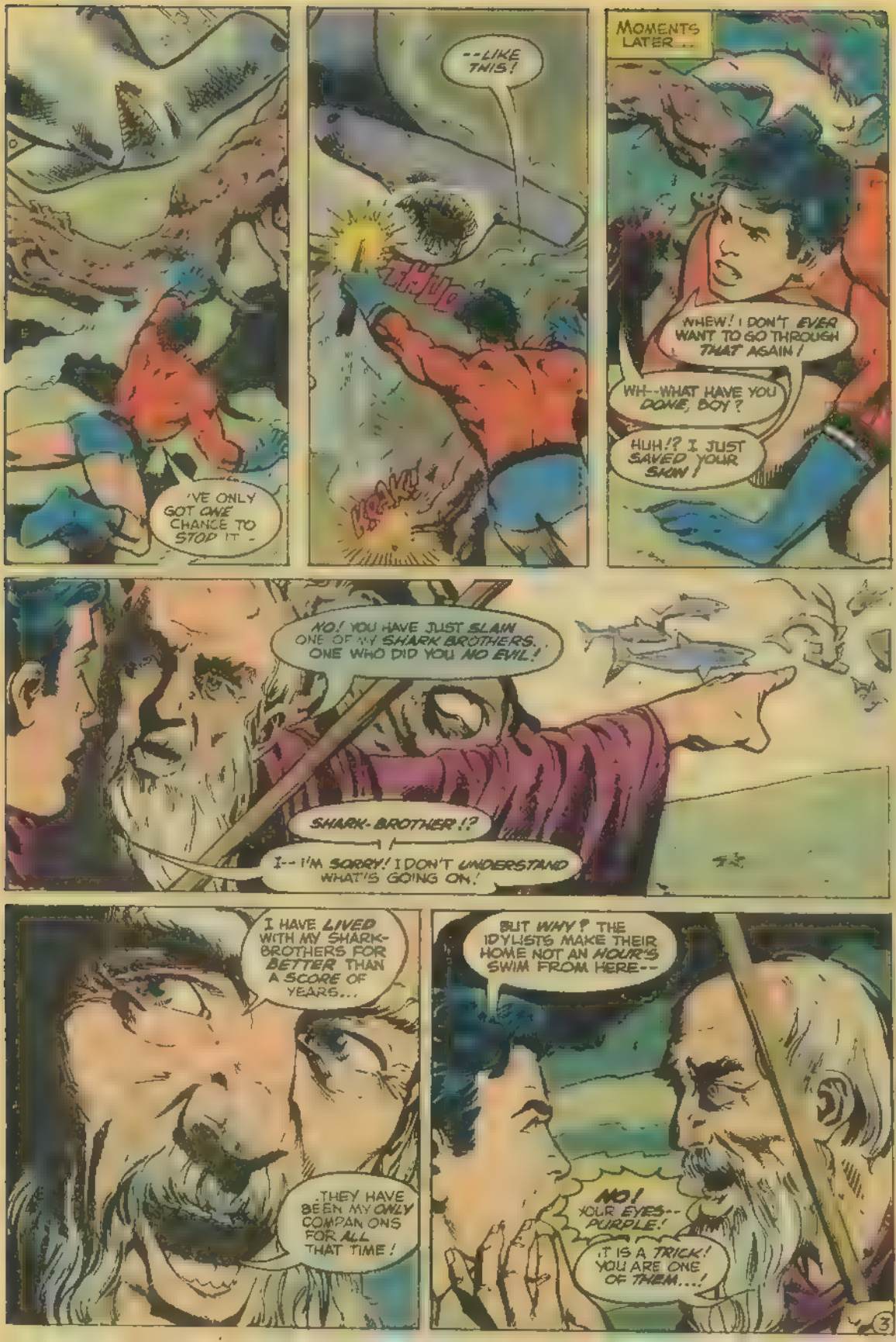

...WHILE I..
...PLAY...
...HERO!
OOOOFF!
OLD MAN! GET OUT OF THE WAY!
THE OLD MAN'S NOT MOVING! BUT I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT HIM NOW...
NOT WHILE I'M TRYING TO AVOID BECOMING THIS SHARK'S NOT LUNCH!
UNNH! THIS MONSTER'S STRONGER THAN I'LL EVER BE! I NEED SOMETHING ELSE...
SOME KIND OF WEAPON!


I'VE ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE TO STOP IT --
--LIKE THIS!
THUD
MOMENTS LATER...
WHEW! I DON'T EVER WANT TO GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN!
WH--WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, BOY?
HUH!? I JUST SAVED YOUR SKIN!
NO! YOU HAVE JUST SLAIN ONE OF MY SHARK BROTHERS, ONE WHO DID YOU NO EVIL!
SHARK-BROTHER!?
I-- I'M SORRY! I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON.
I HAVE LIVED WITH MY SHARK-BROTHERS FOR BETTER THAN A SCORE OF YEARS...
THEY HAVE BEEN MY ONLY COMPANIONS FOR ALL THAT TIME!
BUT WHY? THE IDYLISTS MAKE THEIR HOME NOT AN HOUR'S SWIM FROM HERE--
NO! YOUR EYES-- PURPLE!
IT IS A TRICK! YOU ARE ONE OF THEM...!
3

GO, BOY! WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO PERSECUTE ME LIKE THIS? HAVE I NOT SUFFERED ENOUGH FOR MY CRIME?
PLEASE, I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU! WAIT!
THE FRIGHTENED OLD MAN DOES NOT SEEM TO HEAR AQUALAD, AND HE RUNS.
WHY DO YOU NOT LET ME LIVE MY LIFE OUT IN SOLITUDE? WHY DO YOU HOUND ME STILL?
HE'S OFF HIS ROCKER! BUT HE'S AN IDYLIST, ALL RIGHT!
WHAT WE DID WAS FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE! BUT YOU NEVER UNDERSTOOD THIS--SO WE LEFT!
AND NOW I AM ALONE... WITH ONLY MY TROUBLED THOUGHTS FOR COMPANIONS!
WHAT WAS IT THAT YOU DID, OLD MAN?
I... I TOOK A LIFE!
I KILLED THAR... OUR KING.
THE PICTURE IS WORN DIFFICULT TO MAKE OUT IN THE DIM LIGHT OF THE CAVERN BUT AQUALAD STARES AT IT IN AMAZEMENT.
4

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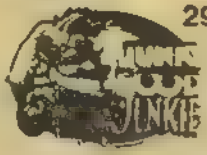

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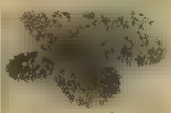
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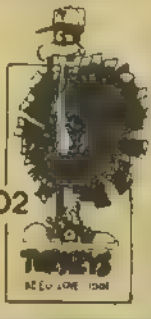

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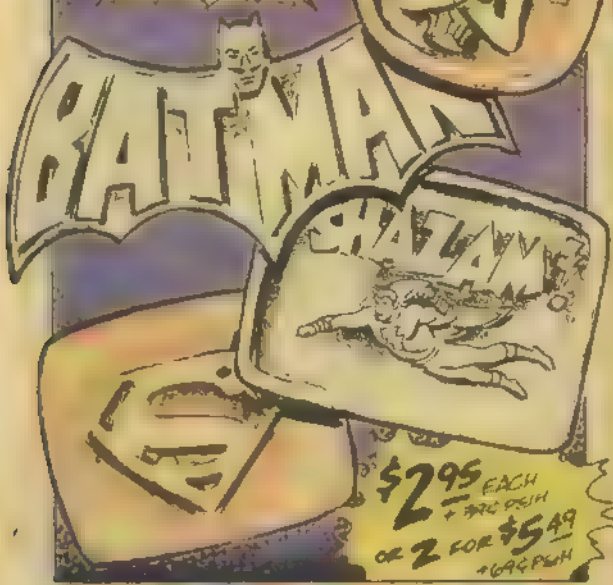

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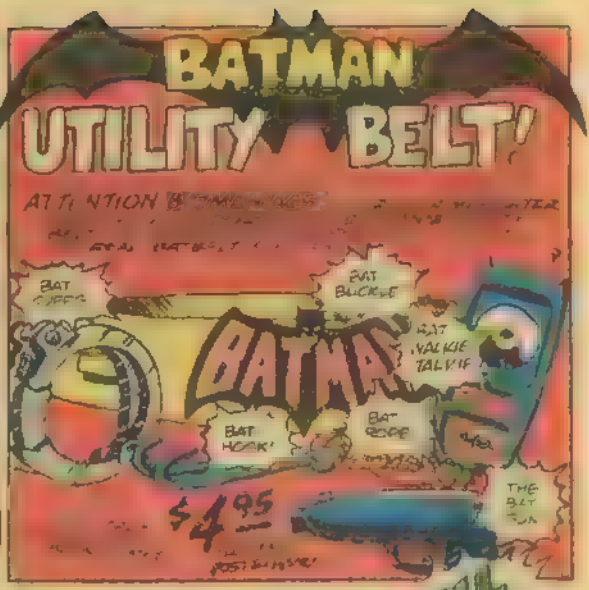

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BUT THERE'S NO OTHER EXCUSE FOR SETT AND THORAN HIDING THE INFORMATION FROM ME!
AND, LORD-- THEY'RE GOING TO PAY!
HARDER THAN IF HAS EVER SWUM BEFORE AQUALAD HEADS FOR THE HIDDEN VALLEY.
HIS BODY CRIES OUT FOR REST, BUT THE DISCOMFORTS OF THE BODY ARE NOTHING BESIDE THE TORMENTS OF THE SOUL...
THUD! THUD! THUD!
5

AQUALAD!? HELLO--
KA-SOK
YO-- YOU HIT ME!
THAT WAS JUST FOR OPENERS, THORAN!
BUT--!
DOES THE NAME THAR RING ANY BELLS, THORAN?
BY THE BEARD OF NEPTUNE..!
YEAH, PRAYING'S A SWELL IDEA BUT T'IS NOT GOING TO HELP YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?
TO YOU... NOTHING! AS FOR THE HIDDEN VALLEY...
...WELL, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE SO LUCKY!
WAIT, AQUALAD! LET ME EXPLAIN BEFORE YOU-
WHAT'S TO EXPLAIN, THORAN? THE IDYLISTS KILLED MY FATHER...
...AND NOW I'M GOING TO RETURN THE FAVOR!
NEXT: WAR ON THE OCEAN FLOOR!
THE LAST WEEK IN OCTOBER

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

L-785

Dear everybody:

The question is, do I want to see **Superboy** in solo adventures?

And the answer is: frankly, guys, not really. Certainly not if **DC SUPER-STARS** #12 is any indication. Let me tackle what was wrong with this issue first, and then I'll talk about what's wrong with a revived **Superboy** series.

One: No villains, no foe, no antagonist. **Superboy** lost his heart, but was never in danger of losing his life. I confess it is childish and immature of me, but I like a battle of the gods, a hero and a villain, a little action and adventure, a little drama. In every issue, the hero should be in danger of losing his life. There should be suspense. Look, if I want to watch "Summer of '42," I'll watch it, but that's not why I buy a comic book. I like characterization, and soap-operatics in my stories—but it should be intermixed with some fighting. Whereas here, there was no one to fight. There was the Super-Teacher and the Bigfoots—both sympathetic and no threat to **Superboy**.

Two: the fact that Superboy had a love life. But what irritated me was that "Misty" was hypnotized, kidnapped and prostituted by the Super-Teacher. I have nothing against love, but both partners should be in their right minds, and not being "used" by anyone else. But the Super-Teacher kidnapped Misty from her home town, put an entirely new personality in her, and let her loose. Wasn't she missed at home? She was programmed like a robot! The ethics of the situation disturb me, and must have set a helluva example for your younger readers.

There were a few good things—such comments as "watch the hands" and such. Nice nostalgic feeling. But other than that, it was a lousy story.

The **Superboy** stories always annoyed me. Continuity became confused because of these stories (**Superman** was introduced to kryptonite when a grown man. Later, his knowledge had to be antedated to his high school days. Ditto for Luthor. Ditto for Mr. Myxzptlk. Ditto for half the **DC** universe.) and trying to keep up the fiction that the people around him don't realize that Clark Kent is **Superman** becomes harder to harder to accept, when not only is he an exact double for **Superman**, but also came from the same small town, is approximately the same age, etc. **Superman** killed in his early adventures—he wasn't a kill-crazy maniac, but he killed at least one torturer of POWs, a submarine crew that was torpedoing a passenger vessel, a pilot that was bombing civilians, etc. Yet according to the **Superboy** stories, he had always had a code against killing. Whereas, with the **Batman** stories, it is relatively easy to believe that **The Batman** progressed from a gun-wielding vigilante into a relatively law-abiding super-hero through easy stages.

We don't have that chance with the **Superman** stories. The **Superboy** stories were there, always contradicting and confusing the reader. It is lucky that Gardner Fox invented Earth-2, because it takes very little argument to convince someone that the **Superman** of today is not the **Superman** of the early **Action** and **Superman** issues. And at least half the blame for that can be laid to the **Superboy** stories (having a bald Luthor in his teens, when **Superman** first encountered a red-headed Luthor, evidently on Earth-II.) and I am afraid, if such a series is revived, more such contradictions will result.

The last couple of years have been a blessed relief, with **Superman** returning to the number of mags he had during the early forties—**Superman, Action,** and **World's Finest**. He only appeared twice a year in new stories in **Superman Family**, and only was a face in the crowd in **JLA** and the **Legion** stories. Thus, we didn't get so many stories about **Superman** that he was beginning to run out of our ears, and to ultimately bore us.

BUT if enough readers want it, of course you'll have to give **Superboy** his own adventures again. If that is the case, then I have a couple of requests. One: keep **Superboy** a boy. Part of the trouble with this issue was that Superboy looked and acted about eighteen. I would prefer stories when he is several years younger—say about fourteen to twelve—when he really is a kid, just learning his job. That way there would be the greatest possible contrast between the **Superman** stories and the **Superboy** stories. He could just be finding out how many kinds of evil there are, or how it's not so easy to classify people as good and evil. Make him an awkward adolescent. Two: In connection with that, have him involved with the concerns of young people, especially. The early **Superboy** stories in **More Fun** were like that, and I think it was a good formula. Three: give him foes worth his mettle. Use Krypto only when logical, and don't get cutesy on us.

Al Schroeder III
2207 Old Hickory Blvd.
Nashville, Tenn. 37215

Although most of our readers came out strongly in favor of the solo series for *Superboy*, we decided that it was only fair to give one lettercolumn over to the minority opinion, and to the single letter that argued that case the best. And now, as the anchorman said to the audience, for an editorial reply . . .

First of all, a number of your criticisms are very valid, Al. There should be a marked difference between *Superboy* and *Superman*, and we hope to achieve that by making Superboy a teenager making teenage decisions, which is surely as meaningful as the distinction between an adult and a child.

The continuity problem is a long-time *DC* sore spot, and one that we're in the process of attending to up and down the line. Hopefully you will see nothing in these pages that contradicts the *Superman* legend as established . . . and we can't let a series of long-gone mistakes affect our decisions about what's a good idea today.

As for *Superman* running out of your ears, we apologize—but your fellow readers are really the ones to blame. No matter how much *Superman* material we publish, there's always a market for it. Naturally, that means that we're going to be very open to the idea of expanding this line of successful titles.

. . . . .

Next issue, *Aqualad* wraps up his quest, *Superboy* discovers why Smallville's gone green, and we'll announce what the next back feature in *ADVENTURE* will be.

DC SUPER-STARS #17

THE ORIGIN OF THE HUNTRESS

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VVROOM!
I'LL STOMP OUT THE EVIL IN THE HEART AND SOLE OF MISSILE-TOE! I'LL USE MY AAU SHOES TO DESTROY TOE-MAIN POISON! THE WORLD WILL NOT DIE AT THE HANDS... OR TOE... OF THIS ARCH VILLAIN!
SWOOOOSH
A BURST OF ENERGY LIGHTS UP THE SKY AS THE AAU SHUPERSTAR BATTLES THE HARD, CALLOUSED MISSILE-TOE.
VVROOM!
THWANG
SPRONGG!
THE JIG IS UP, MISSILE-TOE, AND SO IS THE JOG! IN MY AAU SHOES I CAN RUN ALL THE HEELS OUT OF THE WORLD! I'LL MAKE YOU VANISH! SHOO! SHOE! SHOO!
POW
BEGONE, EVIL SOLE!
HE REALLY LACED INTO ME! MY POWER IS WEAKENING! MY TOE IS ALL UPTIGHT! MY MISSILES ARE MISSING... OHHHH... I'M DISAPPEARING STEP BY STEP... VANISHING... INTO... THIN AIR...
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NEW

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9:30AM 8:30 CENTRAL

NEW LIVE

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THREE FUNNY FEATHERED FRIENDS WITH FOUR FUNTASTIC SHOWS IN ONE

ROBOT STOOGES

SUPER ROBOTS WHO CAN DO ANYTHING—WRONG!

WONDER WHEELS

THRILLING ADVENTURES OF A QUIET TEENAGER WHOSE LITTLE BIKE BECOMES A SUPER CYCLE AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE!

MYSTERY ISLAND

WHAT EVIL HAS TRAPPED OUR 3 YOUNG HEROES ON THIS MYSTERIOUS ISLAND? CAN THE REMARKABLE ROBOT POPS, SAVE THEM FROM THE TERRIBLE DR. SPIDER?

WOOFER & WHIMPER

THE HILARIOUS ANTICS OF THOSE TWO CANINE DETECTIVES WITH A BONE TO PICK WITH CROOKS

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10:30AM 9:30 CENTRAL

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